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Note verbale dated 8 November 2018 from the Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to communicate the interest of the Government of the Republic of Malta in becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Republic of Malta has always been fully committed to the aims of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, currently holding the status of observer in the Executive Committee at the sixty-ninth session. In 1971, Malta acceded to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, aligning its national legislation with the principles enshrined in the Convention. Furthermore, as a Member State of the European Union, Malta is strongly committed to the implementation of the common European asylum system, having also spearheaded the negotiations on its revision during its tenure as President of the Council of the European Union in 2017. The commitment of Malta to international protection and asylum and in the promotion of burden- and responsibility-sharing have been clearly demonstrated in the country's active participation in the relocation and resettlement programmes of the European Union and in addressing crisis situations in full adherence to international obligations and humanitarian law.

The Republic of Malta has participated constructively in the consecutive rounds of consultations on the global compact on refugees, facilitated by the United Nations refugee agency, and we stand ready to cooperate fully with all members of the Executive Committee to join efforts in implementing this global compact, as well as to find constructive solutions to the challenges facing the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Permanent Mission kindly requests the Secretary-General to inform the Economic and Social Council of the request of the Republic of Malta to become a member of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and hopes that this request will be given favourable consideration.

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